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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 278
By Trail

A RESOLUTION To congratulate and commend Benjamin Douglas Groce on his outstanding work and exemplary performance as a Legislative Intern to Senator Larry Trail.

WHEREAS, Through the course of each Legislative Session, certain individuals have emerged who far exceed the basic requirements set forth for them to follow; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Douglas Groce has distinguished himself as one such individual through his stalwart dedication and acumen as the Legislative Intern to Senator Larry Trail, and his tireless efforts resulted in untold benefits to Senator Trail as well as Office Staffer, Sandi Jones; and

WHEREAS, Ben is a native Tennessean hailing from beautiful Murfreesboro in the heart of Rutherford County, where he is the son of proud parents, Wayne and Dana Groce, and has been supported in his many endeavors by his loving family, including his brother, Chris, and his wife, Carrie; and

WHEREAS, He is currently attending Middle Tennessee State University, where he is majoring in Political Science and minoring in English and will be receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in the very near future; and

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WHEREAS, Ben has experienced the finer points of the Tennessee General Assembly and has become well-versed in parliamentary procedure, copy room repairs, hallway maneuvers on special interests days, and the operation of the high-tech coffee receptacles; and

WHEREAS, He has shown an insatiable thirst for knowledge by perusing Webster's Dictionary to expand his vocabulary, as well as demonstrating his ability for knowledge retention in reciting the names of all the counties and the county seats across the State, facts he learned when just a mere child; and

WHEREAS, He had the opportunity to make the acquaintance of numerous outstanding Tennesseans such as: Mr. Bob Baldridge, Ms. Lara Robinson-Green, Mr. Patrick Smith, and Sargent-at-Arms Joe Webb, as well as enjoying the camaraderie of his fellow interns and the staff of the General Assembly, especially Ms. Jackie Nash, the "Guru of Knowledge" herself, as well as a one-time sighting of Elvis Presley, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Groce was also afforded those once in a lifetime opportunities that only an Intern with the Tennessee General Assembly can enjoy, including a picnic luncheon at the Governor's Mansion, an excursion to the Tennessee State Prison, and a barbecue and blue grass promotion for the new Nashville Speedway; and

WHEREAS, Ben will never again view Legislative battles in the Senate Hearing Room, pull a myriad of Bills, Fiscal Notes, and Amendments for the Senator's Committee and Floor Calendar Books, respond to constituent phone inquiries, or live dangerously by traveling the crowded halls of the Legislative Plaza; and

WHEREAS, His outstanding work and tremendous dedication will stand him in good stead as he begins the pursuit of his dream of going to law school and becoming a prominent attorney, as well as pursuing an elected public office, no sinecure for this young man; and

WHEREAS, He has conducted himself in a meritorious manner and learned through his internship the difference between a textbook full of words about government and the texts of words from which our real government is formed; and

WHEREAS, The only thing besides a congratulatory resolution that could make his internship complete would be a tranquil night at Metro Manor without the resounding whistle of the train, an unending supply of peanuts from the Peanut Shop, or more trips to the Massage Therapist booth, none of which were ever considered in the many Budget Hearings that were held; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ben Groce has performed his duties and many responsibilities with extraordinary ingenuity and decorum, which in the words of Speaker Wilder translates into "He was good"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and congratulate Ben Groce on his outstanding service as the esteemed intern to Senator Larry Trail and express our deepest appreciation and thanks to him. We wish Ben every good thing in life and success in all his future efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That three copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.